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SKIPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Fifty-Eighth Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

The report is an "Ordinary Report" drawn up on the lines suggested in the Ministry of Health Circular 1650, and, in accordance with the economy cuts recommended by the Central Authority and local Councils, repetition is avoided by reference to information given in the "Survey Report" of 1930. Further details of work done are restricted to facts essential to the maintenance of the continuity of records kept for the past fifty-seven years.

The change in the boundaries of the area effected under the County Review of Districts has no bearing on the present report.

Housing reform has occupied much of your officials' attention, and the special survey now completed shows overcrowding on the basis of the latest standard set up by the Ministry of 7 per cent.

The incidence of infectious disease showed less than the usual variation. Non-notifiable diseases—Chicken Pox and Whooping Cough—were certainly prevalent, but Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were average.

Improvement in trade was good and unemployment showed a hopeful decline until the last quarter when international complications reduced exports, especially of Textiles, and unemployment showed an increase.

As shown later under Vital Statistics, the birth-rate was lower and the death-rate higher than in 1936.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

1. PHYSICAL FEATURES
2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

} See 1930 Report.

3. GENERAL DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,204
Population (1921 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,013
Population (1931 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,461
Population (1937 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,840
Inhabited Houses (1937 estimated)				...	...	...	3,866
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£86,757
Sums represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£333

VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) BIRTHS.

The Births registered as occurring in or belonging to the District were 149.

Legitimate	...	...	66 males and 80 females.
Illegitimate	...	...	1 male and 2 females.

Birth-rate on an estimated population of 12,840 is equivalent to 11·6 per 1,000, compared with 12·7, 13·3 and 12·6 in the previous three years, with 12·1 for the Craven Combined Districts, and with 14·9 for England and Wales.

(b) DEATHS.

The deaths, after correction by the inward transfer of residents dying outside the District and the outward transfer of non-residents dying inside the District, numbered 92 males and 92 females—a total of 184.

The Death-rate is thus 14·3, compared with 13·6, 11·3 and 13·5 in the previous three years, with 15·1 for the Craven Combined Districts, and 12·4 for England and Wales.

(c) INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant deaths, as corrected by the Registrar General, were 6 males and 7 females.

The infant mortality was therefore 87 per 1,000 births, compared with 61, 63 and 62 in the three previous three years, with 53 for the Craven Districts, and 58 for England and Wales.

(d) STILL BIRTHS.

Number of still births registered, 8.

Percentage of still births to total births (alive and still born), 5·0, compared with 5·1 in Craven Urban and 4·6 in Craven Rural Districts.

(e) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Number of maternal deaths from puerperal causes—0.

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—nil, compared with 3·30 for the Craven Combined District and with 3·23 for England and Wales.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

The seven principal zymotic diseases, namely Small Pox, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Diarrhœa, were responsible for 1 death, compared with 2, 1 and 4 in previous three years, viz. : Diarrhœa 1.

The Zymotic death-rate, therefore, was ·07, compared with ·15, ·07 and ·31 in the previous three years, and with ·14 in the Craven Combined Districts.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death in Skipton Urban District, 1937.					M. F.	
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	92	92
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
2 Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6 Influenza	...	...	...	...	6	5
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	—
10 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12 General Paralysis of insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	—	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	12	9
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	2
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	10	11
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	16	26
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	9	8
19 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	9	3
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	2	5
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	—	1
23 Diarrhœa, etc., under 2 years	...	...	...	...	1	—
24 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	1
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	1	4
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	2	3
29 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—	—
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	3	1
32 Senility	...	...	...	...	—	1
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	1
34 Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	6	2
35 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	7	7
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above):						
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—

To the total death-rate of 14·3

Infectious Diseases contributed	·07
Tuberculosis	·38
Cancer	1·65
Heart Disease	3·31
Apoplexy	1·66
Respiratory Diseases	1·55
Premature Birth, &c.	·31
Senility	·07
Other Diseases	5·3

General Death-rate is slightly above average, Infant Mortality above average, and Maternal Mortality nil.

AGES AT DEATH

Age.	Deaths.	Percentage.	Period of Life.
0—1	13	7·0	Infancy
1—5	3	1·6	Early Childhood
5—15	4	2·1	School
15—65	76	41·3	Working
65 upwards	88	47·8	Autumn and Winter

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

M.O.H.—WILLIAM SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., C.M., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector—F. HOLMES, M.S.I.A.

2.—HOSPITALS, CLINICS, PROFESSIONAL NURSING, &c.

There has been no development or change in the services provided by the Council during the year. Details of these, as well as those established and supervised by the West Riding County Council, were given in the 1932 Report.

The negotiations between the W.R.C.C. and the Isolation Hospital Committee for the admission of cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia into the Isolation Hospital were satisfactorily concluded. No cases were admitted during the year.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1.—WATER SUPPLY.

A general description of the town's water undertaking was given in the Report for 1930. The supply in any normal year is more than sufficient for the needs of the town, even although the average daily consumption for domestic and trade purposes exceeds 49 gallons per head of the population. 3,846 houses are on the public supply, leaving 20 out-lying houses and farms on private supplies.

The normal depth of water in the Embsay Moor Reservoir is 56 feet, and it continued full till November, when the lowest depth, 44 feet 9½ ins., was recorded.

The quality of the water supplied to the town has never been in question, and since the open spring water tank (used for washing the filters) was covered over the growth of Algae in the water seems to be effectively checked. Further extensions of mains were carried out owing to building activity, particularly to new dwellinghouses in the Regent Road, Regent Drive, Raikeswood and Hurrs Road districts.

PLUMBO SOLVENCY, etc.—Samples of tap water were repeatedly examined for the presence of lead with negative results.

CHEMICAL ANALYSES. (7/6/37).

	Sample (a). 9, Castle St.	Sample (b). 104, Broughton Rd.
Total solids	8.0	8.0
Chlorine (combined) ... ..	.8	.8
Nitrites	none	none
Nitrogen as Nitrites	none	none
Free Ammonia ... ..	.0007	.0007
Albumenoid Ammonia ... ..	.0007	.0014
Lead, Zinc, Copper	none	none
Total hardness (Clark's scale) ...	2.7	2.0
Temporary	—	—
Permanent	—	—
	p.h. 8.5	p.h. 7.4

These are both waters of good organic purity, soft and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

RICHARDSON & JAFFE.

BACTERIOLOGICAL REPORT. (7/6/37).

	Sample (a) 9, Castle St.	Sample (b) 104, Broughton Rd.
No. of colonies per c. cm. or millilitre on Agar at 20° C. in 3 days	240	200
No. of colonies per c. cm. at 37° in 1 day	0	3
No. of colonies per c. cm. at 37° in 2 days	1	3
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile Salt Lactose broth after two days incubation at 37° C.	100 c.c.	absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water containing B. Coli ...	present in 100 c.c. absent in 50 c.c.	absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity giving the reaction of B. Welchii (B. Enteritidis Sporogenes) ...	absent in 100 c.c.	Absent in 100 c.c.

SAMPLE A.

This is a bright water containing a few particles of vegetable debris in suspension. From the bacteriological standpoint, it is not of the highest standard of purity since B. Coli, though absent in 50 c.c., is present in 100 c.c.

We regard the water, however, as wholesome and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. The suspended matter is such, however, as might occasion complaints from consumers.

SAMPLE B.

This is a bright water containing particles of carbonaceous matter in suspension. Bacteriologically, it is of a high degree of purity, and is a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. The suspended matter is such, however, as might occasion complaints from consumers.

BEALE & SUCKLING,

The Counties Public Health Laboratories, London.

With regard to the suspended carbonaceous matter, it is interesting to note that before the samples were taken the collector flamed the taps with paper soaked in paraffin.

2.—SEWERAGE DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There is fairly complete system of sewerage in the town—extensions of mains being laid in areas where housing activity is shown; e.g., in Regent Road, Regent Drive, Old Raikes and Hurrs Road.

At the Sewage Disposal Works the extra sewage filter and storm water tanks, constructed in 1932, continue satisfactory improvements, as is also the $4\frac{3}{4}$ acres of land reserved for dealing with the heavy sludge from the storm water tanks. To facilitate handling, the sludge, 500 square yards of surface concrete were laid during the year.

3.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, SCAVENGING, &c.

The town is on the water-carriage system, there being 3,680 water closets, 9 waste water closets and 4 privies. 55 cisterns with proper flushing arrangements were installed during the year, compared with 43, 60 and 40 in the previous three years. 37 water closets have been provided and 30 re-conditioned.

The 4 privy-closets in the town are situated too low for the public sewer and are therefore provided with galvanised containers and emptied weekly.

In each of the past two years it was incidentally mentioned that 20 small bedrooms had been converted into bathrooms, and this year an additional 8 rooms have been similarly converted. Available bedroom accommodation is thus being curtailed. The more liberal interpretation of this Bye-Law permitting bathrooms to be built over sculleries less than 15 feet from the boundary wall has not been taken advantage of—only 3 such plans being submitted during the year.

SCAVENGING.—The abolition of joint ashpits is steadily progressing, 4 being done away with during the year and 16 removeable ashbins provided in their place. All new houses are, of course, supplied with separate moveable bins.

The weekly collection of dry ashes and trade refuse continues as formerly.

REFUSE REMOVAL.—The steady increase in the number of new houses continues—67 this year and approximately 617 during the past ten years. These new houses are of a type which entails longer distances to be traversed in collecting the refuse. The composition of the refuse is changing. The bulk, if not the weight, is certainly greater. In the interests of hygiene and economy leaflets were distributed asking householders to bundle waste paper and hand it to the dustman. As a result, baling was commenced in April, and 54 tons 12 cwts. were sold for £102. The operation showed a substantial profit, although at the end of the year values were depreciated and next year may show a considerably reduced margin of profit. At the same time a 100 per cent. response by householders would stabilise the salvage problem and find additional employment.

The total income for removing trade refuse was £186.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.—The bulk of the town's refuse is tipped under controlled methods on low-lying ground off Carleton Road, Ings Lane and Short Bank Road—the latter site being for heavy trade refuse only. No complaint has been received regarding the condition of the tips. A large area at Ings Lane was soiled over for completion—a condition to be observed in renting the land.

During the year 3,667 loads, weighing 3,970 tons, were collected and tipped, at a cost of 9s. 1d. per ton, including cost of disposal—the reduction in loads being due to the use of larger waggons.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The whole of the stream which runs through the town from Otley Road to Eller Beck was cleaned out by the Council at a cost of £60. Warning notices were posted against wantonly depositing useless and unsightly matter in the bed of the stream.

4.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK, &c., completed in the year ending December 31st, 1937 :—

Number of complaints received during the year	...	...	...	75
Number of Houses built during the year	...	...	...	67
Number of Houses, Premises, &c., inspected	...	...	...	1693
House drains repaired, cleansed, &c.	...	...	...	78
House drains trapped and ventilated	...	...	...	5
New Baths fitted	...	...	...	15
Waste pipes trapped	...	...	...	21
Water closets repaired, cleansed, &c.	...	...	...	30
Water Closets supplied with Water...	...	...	...	55
Water closets provided	...	...	...	37
Ashpits, &c., converted to Bins	...	...	...	4
Ashpits repaired and covered	...	...	...	10
Removal of accumulations of dung, stagnant water, animal and other water	...	...	...	8
Eaves troughs provided and repaired	...	...	...	7
Removal of animals improperly kept	...	...	...	2
Filthy houses ordered to be cleansed	...	...	...	13
Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1935 standard)	...	...	...	2
Smoke records taken (60 observations)	...	...	...	12
Offensive trades complained of	...	...	...	—
Schools disinfected after infectious disease...	...	...	...	—
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	17
Common lodging house inspections	...	...	...	14
Slaughter-house inspections	...	...	...	478
Bakehouse inspections	...	...	...	21
Dairies and Cowshed inspections	...	...	...	33
Milkshop inspections	...	...	...	5
Canal boats inspected...	...	...	...	9
Premises examined under "Factory and Workshops Act"	...	...	...	54
Plans approved	...	...	...	96
Plans disapproved	...	...	...	1
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	2
Preliminary Notices (informal)	...	...	...	78

5.—PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

(a) COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one Common Lodging House in the district and this was regularly inspected as to cleanliness of bedding, floors and whitewashing. Although these premises cannot be said to be ideal, they supply a need, and owing to a decrease in the number of lodgers, the owner is considering plans for alterations. Under the new Public Health Act, 1936, registration as keeper was applied for another year and granted.

(b) BAKEHOUSES.

There are 18 bakehouses in the town, one being registered as "Underground." The general arrangement and condition were found satisfactory, except in four instances, where whitewashing was overdue but remedied after notice. The underground bakehouse has been discontinued during the year.

(c) OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Three tripe-boiling and one gut-scraping business come under this description—the latter being in connection with the Public Abattoir.

No new businesses were established during the year, and no inquiry was made regarding establishing new fish-frying businesses. One of the existing premises has been thoroughly re-conditioned after notice.

(d) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The following observations by your Inspector are interesting :—

“Although Skipton cannot be claimed as a dense industrial town, there is evidence to show that an even cleaner atmosphere would benefit the district and incidentally improve the amenities of the town.

It is not generally realised that the major portion of atmospheric pollution to-day is due to domestic chimneys, of which there is no legislative control other than “firing” chimneys. With regard to this the Council issued a warning notice in the Press followed by four prosecutions against offending householders.

Consideration of the greater use of electricity, gas and smokeless fuel would create a vastly improved atmosphere.

Improvements in the design of domestic fires are taking place, and this is also conducive to the reduction of smoke production. Industrial smoke is decreasing, due to improved firing methods and technique.

Of the 60 observations taken during the year, only two cases were observed to emit black smoke beyond the permitted allowance of two minutes in 30. These were followed up with a warning notice and a visit to the works.

A Soot Gauge to collect the atmospheric deposit to ascertain the amount of deleterious matter in the air was fixed for operation last year. The West Riding County Council defray the cost of the monthly analyses and compare the results with those of larger towns.

There are now 101 such stations operating in conjunction with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, London, who compile statistical data, etc., for the country.

During the year our monthly analyses showed the following weights per square mile were deposited.

January	...	...	15·43 tons	July	...	...	17·78 tons
February	...	...	17·75 „	August	...	...	6·06 „
March	...	...	8·75 „	September	...	...	11·85 „
April	...	...	12·12 „	October	...	...	9·12 „
May	...	...	13·47 „	November	...	...	9·33 „
June	...	...	11·53 „	December	...	...	14·75 „

Thus the average deposit per square mile is 12·24 tons, as against 15 tons last year. The approximate average for the country as far as could be ascertained is 19 tons per square mile.”

(e) FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

A Register, Record Book and Fire Escape Book are kept, in which are entered details as to sanitation, air space, ventilation, drainage of floors, cleauliness, etc.

The following list shows the number of Factories and Workshops on the Register :—

FACTORIES.			
Printing Works...	...	...	4
Cotton Factories	...	...	8 (13 sections)
Dye Works	...	...	3
Public Laundry...	...	...	—
Ironfounders	...	...	2
Cabinet Works	...	...	5
Engineers and Motor Engineers	...	...	7
Total			29
WORKSHOPS.			
OCCUPATION.			Number.
Shoemakers and Cloggers	...	...	18
Tailors	...	...	10
Tripe Boilers	...	...	2
Blacksmiths	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	18
Underground Bakehouses	...	...	1
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	18
Saddlers...	...	...	2
Gutscrapers	...	...	1
Joiner	...	...	10
Disinfectant Works	...	...	1
Total			84

30 inspections of workshops and 20 of factories were made.

Want of cleanliness was found in 2 instances, and other nuisances in 5 other cases, all of which have duly been remedied.

Lime-washing was overdue in 4 instances, and had to be carried out after notice.

(e) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

To ensure a reasonable standard of purity in the Public Swimming Bath during the Summer a more frequent renewal of this water with the addition of Chloros was instituted. A sample taken from the covered bath, however, yielded an unsatisfactory bacteriological analysis and further improvement is called for.

The open air swimming pool is partially running water and here the bacteriological examination was satisfactory, although the bacterial count was somewhat high.

(f) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) The number of houses found to be infested was 7, none being Council houses.

(2) Remedial measures were adopted by the Sanitary Inspector: Intense fumigation by sulphur compound (Cimex), followed at weekly intervals, twice, spraying with insecticide. Particular attention was given to bedding, mattress and skirting board, etc.

(3) Careful inquiry is made before allowing tenants to remove to Council houses. Every unoccupied house is inspected before allowing occupation.

(4) The work of disinfection is undertaken by the Sanitary Authority.

(g) SHOP ACT.

The County Council are the Authority empowered to enforce hours of employment, while the Urban Council are responsible for all sanitary arrangements.

During the year 27 inspections were made, particularly of shops where the sanitary accommodation was in question. In some cases new accommodation had to be provided, and in four cases where the heating was inadequate better facilities were provided.

There are no regular out-workers in the district, although occasionally during a busy season some tailoring or dressmaking work may be taken home.

The Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890 is in force in the district.

(h) CANAL BOATS.

Nine Boats were boarded and inspected. The following infringement was found :— Deck leaking, 1, and remedied after notice. In 4 instances where complaint notes existed, inspections were made.

(i) RATS DESTRUCTION ACT.

The campaign against these destructive rodents resulted in 320 being killed, chiefly on the tips, during the year. During "Rat Week" 75 were accounted for in various parts of the town : 280 baits of rat-poison were laid with good effect.

(j) UNWANTED PETS.

The lethal chamber, installed at the Gasworks by request of the R.S.P.C.A. was used for the humane destruction of 107 dogs and 98 cats, etc. The disposal is carried out by an officer of the Society.

F. HOLMES, M.S.I.A.

6.—SCHOOLS.

The five elementary and two secondary schools have all town's water laid on and are provided with water closets with automatic flushing apparatus.

There was considerable interference with school attendance by Influenza, Chicken Pox and Whooping Cough during January at all schools. The following cases were reported by the local Education Authority :

Mumps : Water Street School, 8 cases in Spring.

Measles : Water Street School 7 cases in August.

Medical Inspection is undertaken by West Riding Education Authority and a separate report issued by the County Medical Officer.

A School Clinic is held every forenoon in the Wesleyan School for treatment of minor ailments.

D.—HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

(a) Number of NEW HOUSES erected during 1937 :—

(i.) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	—
(ii.) By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	67

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) a. Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	48
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	48

(2) a. Number of dwellinghouses (including under sub head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
b. Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—								
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :—								
(a) Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—								
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—								
(a) By Owner	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—								
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—								
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—								
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(d) Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—								
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—OVERCROWDING :—								
(a) (i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
(ii.) „ families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
(iii.) „ persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	182
(b) New Cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c) (i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
(ii.) „ persons thus relieved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
(d) Number of houses again overcrowded after abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(e) Any other particulars of interest	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Houses demolished as unfit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses permanently closed as unfit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

F. HOLMES, Housing Inspector.

Your Housing Inspector has supplied the following notes :—"The estimated number of inhabited houses in the district ascertained from the rate book at the end of the year is 3,866.

SUFFICIENCY : A reduction in the shortage continues, chiefly through the efforts of the private speculative builder, whose activities have again been the means of providing a further 67 houses, and promises to continue during the next year. The prices run from £490 for houses with two bedrooms to £700 with three bedrooms. Newly-married couples have predominated in the acquisition of these homes. The moving round principle has also been noticeable, whilst a few have been purchased by people from outside the town choosing Skipton as a place of retirement.

That there is still a demand for houses is evidenced by the number of applicants for a Council house, many desiring such accommodation who live in rooms, or who prefer the amenities of the Council housing areas in preference to a house situated in less favoured situations. To meet the further needs the Council have now in course of erection 62 houses in the Short Bank Road district, 22 of these to accommodate families under overcrowded conditions, 32 of the two bedroom type for ordinary housing needs, and eight bungalows for aged persons.

At the end of last year 31 overcrowded families remained to be dealt with, and two additional cases were found during the year. 11 of these have been found accommodation in a Council house, left the district or the family reduced to the permitted number by a death or marriage, leaving 22 remaining to be dealt with at the end of the year.

By informal action two houses have been closed : 2 basement rooms by statutory procedure initiated last year, 4 demolished under slum clearance programme. Thus there has been a net gain of 60 houses, compared with 60 last year and 115 in the previous year.

Re-conditioning and improvement and repair work has been carried out with respect to 40 houses."

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1.—MILK DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 14 cowsheds and approximately 200 cows in the district. All were again inspected twice by the County Veterinary Surgeon and 33 times by the Sanitary Inspector.

The summary of the two reports by the former officer is that : 2 cows were detected on routine inspection, 2 samples of milk and 2 of expectorate were examined bacteriologically, and 5 cows suspected to be suffering from Tuberculosis were reported by farmers themselves. Of the 11 cows involved 10 were found to be suffering from some scheduled form of Tuberculosis. All the cows concerned were slaughtered under the tuberculosis provisions.

The County Veterinary Surgeon in his latest published annual report (the date of which, however, does not coincide with that of our municipal year) tabulates the results of his inspections in the Craven Districts as follows :—

CATTLE KILLED UNDER THE TUBERCULOSIS ORDER.

			No. of Cows on Farms.	No. Slaughtered.	% Tuberculous.
Oak worth	...	...	944	12	1·27
Haworth	...	...	220	4	1·82
Oxenhope	...	...	420	4	·95
Silsden	...	...	701	5	·71
Skipton Urban	...	...	147	6	4·08
Keighley Rural	...	...	1073	17	1·58
Skipton Rural	...	...	9194	80	·87
Settle Rural	...	...	10809	66	·61
Sedbergh	...	...	2774	3	·11

It would thus appear that in the Urban Districts tuberculosis is twice as prevalent as in the Rural Districts, the figures being :—

Urban	2432 Cows	31 tuberculous	Percentage	1·27
Rural	23855 „	166 „		·69

For the whole county the percentage was 1·20.

Your Inspector further reports that he took 35 milk samples for the sedimentation test to detect visible filth. With three exceptions, all were considered satisfactory—the exceptions coming from outside districts.

2.—MEAT.

No serious contravention of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, was observed, but four butchers had to be warned to ensure clean wrappings were used when transporting meat from slaughterhouse to shop.

Under the Skipton Water Improvement Act, the Council have decided to exercise their powers in dealing with butchers' stalls as "buildings," and steps are being taken to see this is observed.

The humane (captive-bolt) killer is used to stun cattle and pigs before slaughter—its use for sheep being optional.

Licences for slaughter : 4 new licences and 43 renewals were granted.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Ex. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ...	791	63	119	3786	2163
Number inspected ...	791	63	119	2900	2163
All diseases except Tuberculosis— whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	1	1	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	30	9	—	30	24
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	3·8	14·2	·82	1·02	1·2
Tuberculosis only — whole car- cases condemned ...	1	1	—	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	11	4	—	—	31
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis ...	1·5	7·9	—	—	1·6

SUMMARY.

At the public Abattoirs the following animals were slaughtered :—Beasts 784, Sheep 3,578, Pigs 1,799, Calves 119.

During the year the following were condemned as being unfit for human consumption from all sources.

13 whole carcases, 2 Beasts, 1 Sheep, 9 Pigs, 1 Calf	...	2392 lbs.
Part Carcases for localised disease	... ..	1182 „
Organs, etc.	... ..	1308 „
Total	... ..	4882 lbs.

The total number of animals inspected affected with disease ... 146

3.—ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The sampling of milk and action under the Food and Drugs Act are undertaken by the W.R.C.C., whose Inspector reports elsewhere on the local administration of the Act.

F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(A) NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

As stated, under an earlier heading, the town was comparatively free from minor infectious disease. Chicken Pox and Whooping Cough invaded all schools; Measles and Mumps Water Street school.

(B) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—INCIDENCE AND CONTROL.

The number of cases notified—some only provisionally—their ages, removals to hospital, etc., are given in the following table :—

Diseases.	Cases Notified.	AGES—YEARS.					Removed to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 45	45 and Upward.		
Scarlet Fever ...	8	—	—	5	3	—	8	—
Diphtheria ...	2	—	—	1	1	—	2	—
*Enteric, &c , Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Erysipelas ...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Scarlet Fever : Only 8 notifications were received, compared with 25 in 1935 and 35 in 1936. All cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria : Considering the epidemic wave, which spread over most neighbouring towns, it is pleasing to record for the third successive year the town's comparative freedom from this infection. Two cases were notified and all removed to hospital. How far this freedom is due to immunisation activity is unknown.

Immunisation against Diphtheria was largely undertaken during the previous year partly privately and partly as a result of the offer of the West Riding County Council to defray all expenses connected with the operation.

With regard to other notifiable diseases—in fact, in regard to all—suffice it to say only 16 notifications were received during the year, compared with a total of 172 in 1934 and 48 in 1935 and 50 in 1936.

*Notification subsequently amended.

SKIPTON ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—During the year 52 cases were admitted, compared with 123, 66, 266, 292, 122 and 111 in the previous six years.

District.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric, &c., Fever.	Other.	Total.
Skipton Urban ...	8	2	1	—	11
„ Rural... ..	6	7	—	—	13
Silsden Urban ...	23	4	1	—	28
Earby Urban ...	—	—	—	—	—
Colne	—	—	—	—	—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The County Bacteriologist reports the following specimens were examined in the County Laboratory during 1937: For tubercle bacilli 22, Throat Swabs for Diphtheria 16, for Typhoid 9, others 21, total 68, in addition to those sent from the Fever Hospital and Sanatorium.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS.

In accordance with the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, a register is kept, the patients' homes are visited and advice given as to the precautions to be adopted in regard to ventilation, sleeping accommodation, indiscriminate spitting, cleanliness, and above all, to the risk of infection from dried sputum. Disinfection of infected rooms is carried out on removal or death, and on the return of patients from Sanatorium or Hospital, the house is again visited to see that so far as possible treatment is continued at home.

Below is given new cases, positive or suspected, ages and deaths, on the form suggested by the Minister of Health:—

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
15—20	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
35—45	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	8	3	2	1	2	—	2	1

Death-rate: Pulmonary ·15, Non-pulmonary 0·23, total ·38, compared with ·38, ·61 and ·47 in the previous three years, and with ·60 for the Combined District.

At the beginning of the year there were on the register 48 pulmonary and 13 non-pulmonary cases—a total of 61. New cases numbered 11 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary, i.e., 14. Cases removed from the register on account of death, recovery, left district, refused treatment, etc., were 11, thus leaving on register 64, made up of 51 pulmonary and 13 non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

No action was taken or required under the P.H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade, nor under the P.H. Act, 1925, Section 62, which empowers certain cases of Tuberculosis to be compulsorily removed to hospital.

G.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

At the Welfare Centre in the Wesleyan School, Water Street, a Committee of ladies and the W. R. Health Visitor, Nurse Grieve, continue their good work. Meetings for mothers and babies are held weekly, a clinic being conducted by Dr. J. M. Anderson on each occasion.

The Infant Mortality for the year was higher than for England and Wales, and above the average of the previous three years. Of the 13 infants who died under one year of age 4 were due to premature birth, etc.

In conclusion, I beg to express my indebtedness to Mr. Holmes, Sanitary Inspector, for much valuable assistance in carrying on the Health Services of the town and for many details of work initiated and conducted by his department during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILL SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

KEIGHLEY,

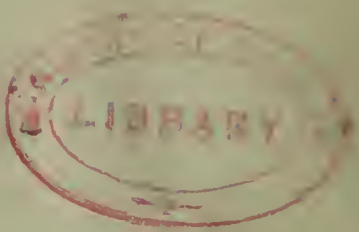
Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1938.

COMPARATIVE TABLE.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN 1937.

	England and Wales.	125 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Craven Combined District.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
BIRTHS :				
Live	14.9	14.9	15.3	12.1
Still	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.61
DEATHS :				
All Causes	12.4	12.5	11.9	15.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid				
Fevers	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.02
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.09
Influenza	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.54
Violence	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.54
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	2.33	2.56	2.42	1.17
Diphtheria	1.49	1.81	1.38	0.54
Enteric Fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.07
Erysipelas	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.14
Pneumonia	1.36	1.58	1.20	0.53
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	58	62	55	53
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.	5.8	7.9	3.2	1.10
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.97	} Not available		.00
Others	2.26			3.30
Total	3.23			3.30
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).			
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.94	} Not available		.00
Others	2.17			3.14
Total	3.11			3.14
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Puerperal Fever	} 13.93	} 17.59	} 11.52	} 4.18
Puerperal Pyrexia				



Skipton
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